

From: [Miller, Garyg](#)
To: [Mekeel, Edward](#)
Cc: [Luckett, Casey](#); [Sanchez, Carlos](#); [Foster, Anne](#)
Subject: RE: San Jacinto Story
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 11:52:42 AM

Ed,
See below.
Thanks,
Gary Miller
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The San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site is situated in Harris County east of Houston, Texas. The pits were built in the mid-1960s along the banks of the San Jacinto River and used for disposal of paper pulp wastes containing dioxins. Over time the waste pits were partially submerged in the river due to regional subsidence. A temporary armored cap was completed in 2011 under an EPA order to prevent continuing releases and direct contact with the waste material until a final remedy could be adopted.

EPA issued a Proposed Plan in September 2016 for public comment that received over 7,000 comments. The Proposed Plan recommended removal of the waste materials and disposal at an off-site facility. On October 11, 2017, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt signed the Record of Decision for the site that calls for excavation and offsite disposal of dioxin waste at an estimated cost of \$115 million. The cleanup includes removal of a portion of the existing temporary armored cap, approximately 162,000 cubic yards of dioxin contaminated waste material in the northern impoundment, and approximately 50,000 cubic yards of waste material in the peninsula south of I-10. The waste material will be stabilized as necessary to meet the appropriate requirements at a permitted disposal facility.

After the Record of Decision is signed, EPA begins the process of notifying and negotiating with potentially responsible parties to conduct the appropriate cleanup at the site. The process is well established under the Superfund law and EPA procedures. Negotiations with the responsible parties to conduct this cleanup began in late October, 2017. The notice and negotiations take some time and on complex sites can take six to 12 months. The design activities can take as long as another six to 12 months and then the work will start.

About 200 community members attended the San Jacinto community meeting held in December 2017 near the site in Highlands, Texas. The EPA presented a summary of the Record of Decision and information on the armored cap damage that resulted from Hurricane Harvey, the completed repairs, and the sediment and surface water sampling results. Following the presentation, the EPA responded to questions posed by the community members and agreed to conduct a future community meeting in Galveston, Texas, which is about 35 miles south of the site.

Thanks,
-Ed-

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